



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.6920 | FAX (517) 373.2751

[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/kuipers/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/kuipers/)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2003

Contact: Darin Ackerman  
(517) 373-6920

## Senate to Take Up Subpoena Power

*State's Lawmakers Have More Questions for Delinquent MEAP Vendors*

**LANSING** – Leading Michigan Senators said today they will seek subpoena power to help investigate the way in which student scores on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) were handled. The scores have been delayed because of numerous errors by companies hired to tabulate and report students' performance on the tests.

"We cannot continue to get lip service from the administration and the vendors when thousands of students and teachers are waiting for the scores," said Sen. Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, after the committee took testimony this morning from administration officials and one of the vendors involved. "Our duty is to provide oversight – to find out what went wrong and to ensure that it does not happen again."

The MEAP is used by the state to measure students' progress in math, English, science and social studies. But it has several other important functions as well, including assessing whether a student is eligible for the \$2,500 Merit Award Scholarship and how well a particular school is educating its pupils.

"With costs at colleges and universities rising faster than families can cover the costs, the young, energetic and bright students who qualify for the Merit Award deserve to know accurate scores promptly," said Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom, R-Muskegon. "In many cases the Merit Award represents a significant contribution to a student's higher education."

(More)

The state contracted with several vendors to provide the testing service, particularly the gathering and publishing of test data. Since then, though, vendors and administration officials have missed several deadlines, delaying or confusing the publishing of the test scores and, consequently, the eligibility of students for scholarships.

"After four hearings we have still not heard the vendors' side of the story as to why these test scores are so late," said Sen. Nancy Cassis, R-Nov. "Students, parents and educators need those scores in an accurate and timely manner, otherwise they lose their meaning and essential purpose."

The Senate is expected to take up the question of subpoena power when it returns next week. Audio comments of the senators are available at: <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/index.htm>